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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Eleventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 207th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 30 January 1992 at 6.30 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. TALLAWY

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The meeting was called to order at 6.50 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE (continued)
(CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.12-14)

CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.12

1. Ms. BUSTELO GARCIA del REAL said that paragraph 20 of document CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.12 should refer to all forms of violence, not just domestic violence. She suggested that the text should be reworded accordingly.

2. The CHAIRPERSON suggested that the phrase in question should read "to protect women from all forms of violence".

3. Document CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.12, as orally amended, was adopted.

CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.13

4. Document CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.13 was adopted.

CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.14

5. Ms. EVATT said, with reference to paragraph 5 of document CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.14, that the Committee had not in fact discussed training women to participate in the Conference, as indicated in paragraph 5. She therefore proposed that the text should be reworded accordingly.

6. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU, Rapporteur, suggested that the first sentence of paragraph 5 should be split into two sentences and reworded to read:

> "Members of the Committee recalled a decision that the Committee had taken at its tenth session, concerning its contribution to the 1995 World Conference. In this regard, members should make suggestions at its eleventh session for the Committee's contribution to the World Conference."

7. Ms. EVATT suggested that paragraph 6 should be replaced by the text of paragraphs 1 and 2 of general recommendation No. 20 in document CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.15.

8. Ms. BERNARD said, with reference to paragraph 16 of document CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.14, that the text under the column heading "Second periodic reports" should read "first four reports received", and not just "first received", as indicated in that column.

9. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU proposed that the fourth paragraph of suggestion 3, which was set out in paragraph 17 of document CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.14, should be reworded so that it read:

(Ms. Laiou-Antoniou)

"The Committee suggests to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that the Manual on human rights reporting prepared by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Centre for Human Rights should be translated into all official United Nations languages as soon as possible and distributed to all States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women."

10. Document CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.14, as orally amended, was adopted.

11. The report of the Committee as a whole was adopted.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

12. Ms. BERNARD, referring to the suggestion that outstanding initial and second periodic reports should be submitted to the Committee as combined reports, said that the reports should still be named initial and second reports, as appropriate, and the Committee should decide how to deal with them.

13. Ms. AOUIJ said that it would be difficult for States, at such a late stage, to submit separate reports. Furthermore, very few States still had reports outstanding. She requested further clarification on the matter.

14. Mrs. MESLEM (Director, Division for the Advancement of Women), speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, said that the provisions of the Convention concerning the submission of reports were very clear and it would be difficult to depart from them. Specific periods of time were set for the intervals between the reports in order for the Committee to be able to gauge progress in the implementation of the Convention.

15. Ms. GONZALEZ MARTINEZ said that if a State party submitted two or more reports at the same time, the Committee should not consider them together since it was important to determine what progress had been made between reports and to give equal treatment to reports. The pre-session working group could compare reports and determine what progress had been made.

16. The CHAIRPERSON said that, so as not to depart from its working methods too much, the Committee, in the case of multiple reports, could treat the initial report like all other initial reports and ask questions in respect of it at the session; the pre-session working group could prepare questions on the second and subsequent reports.

17. Ms. FORDE said that there could be problems for representatives of States parties if they had to present initial reports and at the same time answer questions on second or subsequent reports.

18. Ms. ILIC said that the approach being proposed would greatly increase the workload of the pre-session working group; moreover, the questions asked in respect of an initial report might be very similar to those prepared in respect of subsequent reports.

19. Ms. GONZALEZ MARTINEZ said that a country submitting multiple reports should introduce the initial report and reply to written questions on the subsequent reports at the same time; there would be no more work for the pre-session working group than in the case of States parties submitting their second and third reports together.

20. Ms. CORTI said that the Committee could ask questions only on the basis of the information available to it; initial reports were always accompanied by lengthy oral statements that facilitated work on subsequent reports. It would not be efficient to limit the discussion to replies to written questions in cases of multiple reports.

21. The CHAIRPERSON said that the Committee needed more time to consider multiple reports; it was therefore requesting that it be allotted longer sessions.

22. Ms. ILIC said that for the time being the Committee should follow its normal procedure.

23. Ms. BRAVO NUÑEZ DE RAMSEY said that, in order to check the accuracy of States parties' reports, the Committee should analyse them in the light of reports from non-governmental organizations.

24. After an exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRPERSON declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 8.05 p.m.